

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

[1] 1. (Currently Amended) A method of introducing a gene into a plant material via Agrobacterium, comprising:

- 1) pressurizing the plant material, and then
- 2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium.

[2] 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein pressurization is performed in the range of 1.7 atmospheres to 10 atmospheres.

[3] 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein pressurization is performed in the range of 2.4 atmospheres to 8 atmospheres.

[4] 4. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein pressurization is performed for 0.1 second to 4 hours.

[5] 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein pressurization is performed for 1 second to 30 minutes.

[6] 6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein pressurization is performed in a liquid or gas.

[7] 7. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 further comprising subjecting the plant material to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of heat treatment, centrifugation and sonication before or during the step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium.

[8] 8. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the plant material is a monocotyledon.

[9] 9. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the plant material is rice or maize.

[10] 10. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the plant material is a dicotyledon.

[11] 11. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the plant material is tobacco.

[12] 12. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein the plant material is an immature embryo.

[13] 13. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~, claim 1 subsequently to the step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium, further comprising the steps of:

- 3) selecting a transformant, and
- 4) optionally regenerating the selected transformant.

[14] 14. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, wherein the gene introduction efficiency is improved as compared with cases wherein the step 1) of pressurization is not conducted.

{15} 15. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a transformed plant, comprising:

- 1) pressurizing a plant material,
- 2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium,
- 3) selecting a transformed cell, and
- 4) optionally regenerating the selected transformant.